

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2003. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8-12 are now pending in this application. Claims 3, 4, and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. New Claims 8-12 have been added to further provide coverage over that which Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found, for example, in the specification at least in Example 1, and support for the amendment to Claim 5 can be found, for example, in the specification at least in Example 2 and in Figure 4. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 07-169567 (Hiroshi et al.).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a luminescence device comprising a substrate, an anode disposed on the substrate, a plurality of organic layers disposed on the anode, which include at least a luminescent layer, an exciton diffusion prevention layer and an electron injection layer, and a cathode disposed on the electron injection layer. The exciton diffusion prevention layer and the electron injection layer include an oxygen absorbent.

Claim 5, as amended, recites a luminescence device array comprising a substrate and a plurality of luminescence devices disposed on the substrate. Each luminescence device is comprised of a first electrode disposed on the substrate, at least one organic luminescence function layer disposed on the first electrode, a second electrode disposed on the at least one organic luminescence function layer, a space between a first

luminescence device and a second luminescence device which is arranged next to the first luminescence device in one surface direction of the substrate, and an oxygen absorbent which is Mg and disposed in the space.

Hiroshi et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to preventing the degradation of a light emitting characteristic caused by oxygen or moisture, and maintains a stable light emitting characteristic over a long period of time by arranging a layer of double layers composed of an oxygen barrier layer and an oxygen absorbing layer 41 as a sealing layer of a layered body.

However, the oxygen absorbing layer 41 of Hiroshi et al. is disposed so as to cover part or all of a structure 1 that includes substrate 11, anode 12, organic luminescent material layer 14 and cathode 13 (see Figures 1-6). On the other hand, the oxygen absorbent recited in Claim 1 is included in the exciton diffusion prevention layer and the electron injection layer of the luminescence device, and in Claim 5, there is a Mg oxygen absorbent disposed in a space between adjacent luminescence devices. Hitoshi et al. is not seen to teach or suggest these features of Claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 5 are each deemed clearly patentable over the Hitoshi et al. reference.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,528,942 (Tada et al.)

Tada et al., as understood by Applicants, discloses an organic electroluminescence device having an image pattern that includes a substrate, a first electrode formed on the substrate, a light emitting layer formed on the first electrode and a second electrode which is formed on the light emitting layer and oxygen-transmittable. The light-emitting layer includes an oxide layer selectively formed by the selective photo-

oxidation using light and oxygen reached through the second electrode. The oxide layer serves as a non-light-emitting region.

According to Tada et al., an iridium oxide layer 10 is formed on the surface of a light-emitting layer 3 (see Figure 10), wherein the iridium oxide layer 10 is an oxygen supplying layer (column 8, lines 29-32).

Applicants respectfully submit that, even if Tada et al. be deemed to refer to an oxygen supplying layer, Tada et al. is not seen to teach or suggest an oxygen absorbent, let alone an oxygen absorbent included in an exciton diffusion prevention layer and an electron injection layer, as recited in Claim 1, or a Mg oxygen absorbent disposed in a space between luminescence devices, as recited in Claim 5. Accordingly, Claim 1, as well as Claim 5, are believed to be patentably distinguishable over the Tada et al. reference.

Claims 2 and 8-10 depend from Claim 1, and Claims 6, 11 and 12 depend from Claim 5, and thus those dependent claims also are believed to be patentable over the prior art relied on by the Examiner, at least for the reason that each claim depends from a patentable base claim.

In addition, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements (copies enclosed with copies of stamped return postcards) filed in the Patent and Trademark Office on March 11, 2002 and May 13, 2002. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and make of record that art and issue an initialed copy of the pertinent Forms PTO-1449 as confirmation thereof. If the Examiner needs further copies of the cited art, such will gladly be supplied upon request.

Enclosed with this amendment is a check in the amount of \$110 for

payment of a petition for a one month extension. Please charge any deficiencies in this payment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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